

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KIG JOINT PARISHES GROUP
Held on 18th March 2008 at 7.30pm.

Present: Representatives from the following Parish Councils:
Bearsted
Broomfield & Kingswood
Boxley
Chart Sutton
Detling
Downswood
Harrietsham
Hollingbourne
Langley
Leeds
Lenham
Sutton Valence
Thurnham
Ulcombe

The meeting was chaired by Richard Jacques - TPC

Also in attendance: Mrs Sherrie Babington and Mark Watts.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Otham Parish Council.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting was accepted by all present.

3. Terry Rimes/Neil Sims

The Chairman introduced Terry Rimes and Neil Sims to the meeting.

Mr Rimes informed all present that he and Neil Sims worked within the transportation business. He spoke regarding this line of work gave members a background insight onto this.

He spoke of the likelihood of companies that would use KIG and his belief that this was in the wrong location. He identified other locations where such a facility would in his opinion be more suitably sited.

He suggested that the JPG should be looking at restrictions that they would wish to see placed on the application should it be approved.

Mr Rimes spoke regarding operation stack and the problems associated with this. He also spoke of the road to rail operation proposed by KIG and his belief that the road side of the operation would be of greater benefit than the rail side.

Mr Sims spoke further regarding the proposals for KIG, he spoke of the negative aspects regarding this and of the growth in deep sea containers coming through UK ports and the projected growth for future years.

He stated that there is a need for road/rail interchanges; however he does not believe that KIG is in the right place given its location to other road/rail terminals.

He stated that he could not see a demand for rail throughout the country and the crucial competition for such a depot would be Shell Haven East of Tilbury.

The meeting was opens for questions and members discussed this further.

The lack of a published business plan was discussed and Mr Rimes and Mr Sims were asked if they had seen such a document, they confirmed that to date they had not.

The discussions were concluded and the Chairman thanked Mr Rimes and Mr Sims for attending the meeting. The representative then left the meeting.

4. Mark Watts – Progress report

Mark Watts attended the meeting and circulated a presentation regarding the progress of his work on behalf of the JPG to date.

He stated that the current credit crunch was assisting with the KIG campaign as this was a high-risk development. He stated that the political situation is not assisting the developers as politics are playing well to the KIG opposition.

Mark Watts referred to a letter from the Highway Authority regarding the KIG application this indicated that MBC should not have validated the planning application. He stated that the applicant now needed to submit a transport assessment and highways plan and in his opinion KIG were in real trouble.

He stated that the assessment needed to include all motorway junctions and ports etc and this was a daunting task that could be costly and give the KIG applicants a real problem.

He referred to the work he had undertaken to date and stated that the KIG is against the EU policy, it would create additional emissions and climate change. Mark Watts stated that a Climate Change Bill was calling for a 20-30% reduction of emissions.

He referred to the intention for Waterfront to undertake a positions paper and this would challenge the climate impact of the scheme, other areas of progress were presented to all present. He stated that the submitted case would be based on the presented arguments.

He referred to 24 alternative sites that had already been approved. He stated that the KIG scheme was not fit for the proposed location, and there was no demand or need for the proposals.

He spoke regarding the building of an all party coalition.

Richard Jacques spoke regarding meetings that he had attending on behalf of the group.

Mark Watts referred to the meetings that he was arranging or attending on behalf of the JPG. He stated that the likelihood was that the KIG application would not be determined for some months yet.

The way forward was discussed and Mark Watts stated that the JP should continue to undermine the KIG plans in all possible ways.

He stated that the JPG should keep arguing and amassing the evidence against the plans.

Councillor Horne spoke regarding the process that MBC would take when the requested information had been received by the Highway Authority. He stated that following the receipt of the information that MBC would seek to have the questioned that they had put forward answered. He stated that then it was hoped that a fresh consultation with interested groups would take place. He stated that the planning hearing for the KIG

application was anticipated to start at around 6.00pm and it would go on until necessary, he then set out the procedure for the representations.

The likelihood of the applicant pulling the application was discussed. Mark Watts stated that the Highways Agencies letter was crucial as the applicants need to undertake a lot of work to put together the requested information. He stated that the holding direction goes to the end of July and therefore in his view there was a real chance that the planning application may be withdrawn.

This matter was discussed further by all present and the possibility of a scaled down version of the application being submitted was debated. Richard Jacques confirmed that at present the JPG was in opposition to the application submitted and it had not considered alternative options. It was agreed that at some stage these areas may need to be looked at and discussed further.

The Chairman thanked Mark Watts for attending the meeting.

5. Environmental Report.

Peter Waite reported on the progress of the Environmental Groups work, he stated that this had currently been put on hold.

He spoke regarding the Air Quality Management report and Councillor Horne spoke further regarding this matter.

6. Archaeological Report.

Councillor Horne stated the Mike Perring and Norman King had offered to take members on a walking tour of the KIG site. This was discussed and Councillor Horne stated that a date for the site meeting would be arranged and circulated to all present.

7. Other Items.

Pat Sandford reported on a recent meeting that he had attended with Aylesford PC and other links that were being progressed on behalf of the JPG.

8. KIG Administrative Costs.

A spreadsheet was circulated to all present identifying the administrative costs incurred by the JPG to date. It was noted that these would be sent to all JPG participants in due course.

9. Date of Next Meetings.

To be arranged.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.